



Duxbury firefighters battled a barn fire in the early morning hours of Thursday that started due to a malfunctioning heating lamp in a chicken coop attached to the structure.

Photo by Matthew Gaskins

Lamp Sparks Barn Fire

By KEITH L. MARTIN

Duxbury fire officials believe a heating lamp in a chicken coop was the cause for an early morning fire last Thursday that resulted in heavy damage to a barn on Surplus Street.

According to Bud Dunbar, who lives at 105 Surplus Street, a passerby knocked on his door around 6 a.m. and told him and wife Gigi that the barn behind their house was on fire. As he tried to extinguish the flames with a garden hose, Mrs. Dunbar called the Duxbury Fire Department, which she said was on the scene in minutes.

Deputy John Bowser said that upon their arrival, firefighters were greeted with 12- to 14-foot high flames shooting up the side of a rear section of the barn. Bowser said that the point of origin of the fire was in a chicken coop attached to the exterior of that side of the barn that contained a heating lamp for the 10 baby chickens inside, which all died in the fire. He added that it was unclear immediately

afterwards if the other chickens who lived in the coop died in the fire or escaped and were on the loose.

The Dunbars said that they were raising the baby chicks as pets and while sad for their loss, were grateful that no one else was injured in the blaze.

"The things in the barn are just stuff," said Gigi Dunbar. "Unfortunately, it was all gone in the blink of an eye, but the puppies and people here are fine...and our neighbors have all rallied around us with support."

Bud Dunbar said he concurred with the fire department's theory that the lamp was to blame for the fire, saying that this is a common situation with heating lamps.

"What likely happened is that one of the chicks got up on the wire that stretched across their perch and pulled the lamp down into the woodchips," he said.

The fire department estimated the damage to the barn at around \$40,000.